



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

6668

### TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES March 17, 2009

Wendy Furniss, Branch Chief, Health Care Systems Branch 509-7406

#### **House Bill 6668 - An Act Providing Quality Care, Financial Oversight, and Nursing Home Funding Reform**

The Department of Public Health provides the following information with regard to House Bill 6668

- DPH opposes subsection (e) of this bill, which requires the Department to ensure that the standards for the quality of care in nursing homes are based upon the best available clinical evidence. However, current regulations for nursing homes are based upon minimal accepted standards of practice. Mandating "practices based upon the best available clinical evidence" will require the Department to invest significant time and resources to identify best practices for the hundreds of care processes that occur in nursing homes on a daily basis, as well as to continuously update such standards as research provides new evidence. In order to accomplish this undertaking, the Department would require additional clinical staff. The Department does not support the bill at this time, as the Governor's budget does not provide resources for this purpose.
- CMS, as well as states, regulate minimum standards for facilities; regulations set a "floor" for patient health and safety, but should not require "best practices" which often are more costly.
- The Connecticut nursing home industry has generally maintained practices that are above minimum requirements, reaching for "best practices" in many cases.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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